

Message Text

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APPROVED BY ;/CT: JEKARKASHIAN
ARA/AND - DCOX (DRAFT)
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PEACE CORPS - J-AWLEY (DRAFT)
PEACE CORPS - FMANKIEWICZ (DRAFT)
PEACE CORPS - FHANSEN (DRAFT)
M - DR. PIECZENIK (DRAFT)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 139211

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING: SELECTION OF AN INTERMEDIARY

REFS: A. BOGOTA 3933; B. BOGOTA 3269

1. SELECTION OF INTERMEDIARY IN STARR CASE COULD BE
SIGNIFICANT FACTOR HELPING TO EFFECT STARR'S SAFE RELEASE.
WE THEREFORE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT
PROVIDED REFTEL A.

2. ASSUMING, AS EMBASSY DOES, THAT PRECISE IDENTITY OF
THE INTERMEDIARY IN BOGOTA NEED NOT BE REVEALED TO FARC

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AND, GIVEN ARRESTS OF NEGOTIATORS IN THE CURTIS CASE,
COLOMBIA TASK FORCE (CTF) CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT INTER-
MEDIARY SHOULD NOT BE AN "OUTSIDER," BUT RATHER SOMEONE WHO
KNOWS THE LOCAL SCENE AND WHO IS IN A POSITION TO MOUNT A
SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT OVER POTENTIALLY EXTENDED PERIOD OF
TIME TO HELP EFFECT STARR'S RELEASE. IDEALLY THIS PERSON
SHOULD SPEAK SPANISH FLUENTLY, HAVE TIME TO DEVOTE TO THIS

POTENTIALLY RISKY ENDEAVOR, HAVE THE GUTS TO SEE IT THROUGH; HE WILL ALSO NEED EMPATHY AND TACT TO GAIN AND RETAIN MRS. JENSEN'S CONFIDENCE.

3. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE THAT AT

APPROPRIATE MOMENT IN NEAR FUTURE CHOICE OF AN INTER-MEDIARY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH MRS. JENSEN. IN OUR OPINION, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MRS. JENSEN TO FULLY ENDORSE SELECTION OF INTERMEDIARY. WE WOULD PROPOSE THEREFORE TO PRESENT THE LIST OF POTENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES, PROVIDED REFTELS, TO MRS. JENSEN. (POTENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES WOULD BE IDENTIFIED TO HER AS "COLOMBIAN MANAGER OF US FIRM, AMERICAN CITIZEN BANKER, COLOMBIAN LAWYER, COLOMBIAN SENATOR, AMERICAN CLERGYMAN AND FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, ETC.)" WE WOULD MAKE CLEAR TO HER THAT WE BELIEVE REVEREND PATRICK MAITREJEAN LOOMS AS MOST LOGICAL CHOICE IN VIEW OF HIS FORMER PEACE CORPS CONNECTION, HIS EXPERIENCE WITH COOPER CASE, AND HIS PRESENT POSITION AS EPISCOPALIAN MINISTER WHICH SHOULD ALLOW HIM BOTH TIME AND RATIONALE FOR PLAYING INTERMEDIARY'S ROLE.

4. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT, AS A RESULT OF NEGOTIATORS IN CURTIS CASE BEING ARRESTED, MANY OF THE PROPOSED INTERMEDIARIES - INCLUDING CONCEIVABLY MAITREJEAN - MAY NOT WISH TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE STARR CASE. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT MAITREJEAN SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY EMBOFF (PREFERABLY A PEACE CORPS REP) IN ADVANCE TO ASCERTAIN HIS WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS AN INTER-SECRET

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MEDIARY. ASSUMING HE AGREES, WE WOULD THEN PROPOSE TO DISCUSS WITH MRS. JENSEN THE TACTICS OF USING HIM AS INTERMEDIARY.

5. WE ALSO WILL HAVE TO DECIDE IN CONSULTATION WITH MRS. JENSEN HOW SHE WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH INTERMEDIARY (I.E. DIRECTLY IN BOGOTA; VIA LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE FROM EDMONDS, WASHINGTON; BY USING STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS; OR PERHAPS BY DISPATCHING A TRUSTED FAMILY FRIEND, ATTORNEY, ETC. TO BOGOTA TO REPRESENT HER.) IT IS POSSIBLE - AND PERHAPS DESIRABLE - THAT THERE COULD BE TWO "INTERMEDIARIES" IN THIS CASE - ONE A COMMUNICATOR DRAWN FROM YOUR LIST SERVING AS A CONDUIT FOR MESSAGES FROM FARC TO THE FAMILY AND VICE VERSA, AND THE OTHER, A FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE SELECTED BY MRS. JENSEN, SERVING AS HER PERSONAL AGENT IN BOGOTA WHO WOULD MAKE DECISIONS ON ANY DEMANDS IN CONSULTATION WITH MRS. JENSEN, WHO PRESUMABLY WOULD STAY IN THE UNITED STATES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSED

SCENARIO WHICH WE WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO DISCUSS SUBSEQUENTLY WITH MRS. JENSEN.

6. FINALLY, GIVEN APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF GOC NOTED BOGOTA 5308 TO PERMIT A "RELATIVE" TO PAY A RANSOM, BUT NOT 'OTHER PARTIES," IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBOFF COULD DISCREETLY SOUND GOC OUT ON THIS ASPECT OF GOC POLICY SINCE

IT COULD IMPINGE SIGNIFICANTLY ON STARR CASE. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD GOC PERMIT A FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE, BUT NOT NECESSARILY A BLOOD RELATIVE, TO MAKE SUCH A PAYMENT? CHRISTOPHER

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